

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 10 are amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as their invention. The Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated March 2, 2010.

Independent Claim 1, as amended, is to a nozzle for coloring an electric wire, which spouts a liquid coloring agent with a specific amount thereof per spouting toward an outer surface of the electric wire so that a liquid drop of the coloring agent adheres to the outer surface of the electric wire. The nozzle includes a receiver for receiving the coloring agent therein, a first nozzle part formed in a cylindrical shape for allowing the coloring agent to pass therethrough, the first nozzle part communicating with the receiver, the first nozzle part being coaxial with and separate from the receiver, and a second nozzle part formed in a cylindrical shape having an inner diameter smaller than that of the first nozzle part for allowing the coloring agent to pass therethrough, and an outer diameter equal to that of the first nozzle part, the second nozzle part being connected to the first nozzle part. The second nozzle part is disposed nearer to the electric wire than the first nozzle part is disposed, and between the first and second nozzle parts there is formed a step protruding inwardly between the first nozzle part and the second nozzle part, and the first and second nozzle parts are always in open communication with each other for spouting of liquid coloring agent there-through from the receiver. Independent Claim 10, as amended, is to a nozzle for coloring an electric wire, which spouts a liquid coloring agent with a specific amount thereof per spouting toward an outer surface of the electric wire so that a liquid drop of the coloring agent adheres to the outer surface of

the electric wire. The nozzle includes a receiver for receiving the coloring agent therein, a first nozzle part formed in a cylindrical shape for allowing the coloring agent to pass therethrough, the first nozzle part communicating with the receiver, the first nozzle part being coaxial with and separate from the receiver, and a second nozzle part formed in a cylindrical shape for allowing the coloring agent to pass therethrough. The second nozzle part has an outer diameter equal to that of the first nozzle part and is connected to the first nozzle part, where the second nozzle part is disposed nearer to the electric wire than the first nozzle part. The first and second nozzle parts are always in open communication with each other for spouting of liquid coloring agent there-through from the receiver, and the second nozzle part is made of polyetheretherketone.

In the Office Action. Claims 1-5 were rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) in view of a newly cited patent to Moen (U.S. 3,273,757); Claims 6-8 were rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of Moen; and Claims 9 and 10 were rejected as obvious in view of a combination of Moen and Rau (U.S. 4,897,439). Reconsideration and removal of these rejections are respectfully requested in view of the present claim amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, it is asserted that Moen describes a nozzle that has a receiver, a first nozzle part (22) formed in a cylindrical shape, communicating with the receiver, the first nozzle part being coaxial with and separate from the receiver, and a second nozzle part (32) formed in a cylindrical shape having an inner diameter smaller than that of the first nozzle part, and an outer diameter equal to that of the first nozzle part, where the second nozzle part is disposed nearer to the coating object than the first nozzle part, and where between the first (22) and second (32) nozzle parts there is formed a step (see A in diagram 1 in the Office Action) protruding from the inner

surface inwardly between the first nozzle part toward the inside of and the second nozzle part.

It is also asserted that step (A) is formed flat in a direction crossing at right angles in a direction in which the dispensed fluid flows in the first and second nozzle parts, that the step (A) in the nozzle of Moen is formed flat in a direction crossing both a direction in which the dispensed fluid flows in the first and second nozzle parts and a direction crossing at right angles the direction in which the fluid flows, that the step (A) in the nozzle of Moen is formed on the first part, and that the first and second nozzle parts in the nozzle of Moen are connected coaxially with each other.

The Office Action alleges that the dimensions described in Claims 6-8 would be obvious to use in a Moen device and cites the Rau reference to allege that the use of PEK in a nozzle construction would be obvious.

While the Moen device appears to use coaxial nozzle parts of differing inner diameters, there are still unobvious distinctions between the Moen structure and that of the present invention. In Moen, the alleged receiver (spout 56) fits within a bore (14) and slides therein, and has slots or passages (76) that allow fluid to flow past the spout into actuator barrel (22). A resilient valve seat (40) surrounds the entry to discharge orifice (36) and a conical valve obturator (74) seals the alleged first nozzle (22) from the alleged second nozzle (32). When valve obturator (74) is dislodged from the entry to discharge orifice (36), fluid will flow through the nozzles and, when the same is not dislodged, there is no communication between the alleged first and second nozzles.

In contrast, in the present device, the first and second nozzle parts are always in open communication with each other for spouting of liquid coloring agent there-through from the receiver. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended by providing that ...the first and second nozzle parts always in

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/560,832**  
Reply to OA dated March 2, 2010

open communication with each other for spouting of liquid coloring agent there-through from the receiver... to emphasize this feature.


In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Claims 1-10, as amended, are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

KRATZ, QUINTOS & HANSON, LLP

  
for William G. Kratz, Jr.  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 22,631

WGK/ak

Atty. Docket No. **050826**  
Suite 400  
1420 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
(202) 659-2930



**23850**

PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE